

The transition from dynamics to statics in the electron-spin-resonance spectra of impurity Mn²⁺ ions in strontium titanate

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Abstract

The electron-spin-resonance (ESR) spectra of SrTiO₃:Mn single crystals have been investigated. Results unambiguously indicate that the impurity center formed by an Mn²⁺ ion has a dynamic nature. In the high temperature range ($T > 100$ K), ESR spectra of Mn²⁺ ions reveal cubic symmetry; the spectrum is found to broaden significantly with a decrease in temperature. Upon cooling to $T < 10$ K, low-symmetry centers of Mn²⁺ ions with a strong orientational dependence emerge in the spectra. Temperature evolution of the ESR spectrum can be described within the model of a dynamic off-center Mn²⁺ ion substituting for the Sr²⁺ ion, with a transition to the static regime at low temperatures with an average localization energy of $\sim 2.4 \pm 0.4$ meV for Mn²⁺ centers due to random deformations. © 2014 Pleiades Publishing, Ltd.

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